REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 21, 2007. Claims 8, 10, 18, 20, 22 and 38 to 46 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 8, 18 and 22 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 18, 22, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,706 (Fan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,366 (Kayashima), Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under § 103(a) over Fan in view of Kayashima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,646,872 (Yonenaga), and Claims 40, 43 and 46 were rejected under § 103(a) over Fan in view of Kayashima and further in view of IANA Well Known Port Numbers. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention relates to controlling the execution of data processes in a data processing apparatus. In the invention, the data processing apparatus maintains a connection limitation table of connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are correlated with each other. When a request to execute a data process is received from an external apparatus, a port number is notified to the external apparatus, and discrimination information of the external apparatus and the notified port number are correlated and registered in the table. Then, when data addressed to the port number is received from the external apparatus, the table is checked to see if the port number and discrimination information have been correlated in the table.

If so, then control is effected to process the received data, but it not, then control is effected to deny the execution of the process.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 8 is directed to a data processing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, the data processing apparatus comprising a storage unit that stores therein a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are correlated with each other, a reception unit that receives a request transmitted from an external apparatus via the network, wherein the request includes a kind of data process to be executed, a port number notifying unit that notifies the external apparatus of a port number corresponding to a kind of data process included in the request received by the reception unit, a registration unit that correlates discrimination information of the external apparatus which transmitted the request and the port number which was notified by the port number notifying unit with each other, forms connection limitation information, and registers the formed connection limitation information in the connection limitation table stored by the storage unit, a data receiving unit that receives data addressed to the port number, from the external apparatus, and a control unit that discriminates whether or not the connection limitation information in which the port number received by the data receiving unit and the discrimination information of the external apparatus are correlated with each other has been registered in the connection limitation table by the registration unit, controls to execute a process based on the data received by the data receiving unit in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table,

and controls not to execute the process based on the data received by the data receiving unit in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the connection limitation table.

Claims 18 and 22 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 8.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 8, 18 and 22, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a data processing apparatus, correlating discrimination information of an external apparatus which transmits a request and a notified port number with each other, forming connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information in a connection limitation table stored in the data processing apparatus, a data receiving unit that receives data addressed to the port number, from the external apparatus, and when data is received, discriminating whether or not the connection limitation information in which the port number received with the data and the discrimination information of the external apparatus are correlated with each other has been registered in the connection limitation table, and controlling to execute a process based on the received data in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table, and controlling not to execute the process based on the received data in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the connection limitation table.

Fan discloses that, if a firewall receives a data packet, it permits or inhibits communication based on an IP source address or a port number and an access control list (ACL). In Fan, the data packet is compared with the previously prepared ACL based on the received IP source address and the destination port, but the IP source address and the destination port are not correlated withy each other and are not added to the ACL. Thus, Fan fails to teach the claimed registration unit/step of the invention, and as such, also fails to teach the control step of the invention in which control is effected based on the port number and computer discrimination information having been correlated in the table.

Kayashima is merely seen to disclose that a server notifies a client computer of a port number. Kayashima does not, however, teach that the notified port number is correlated in a communication limitation table with discrimination information of a computer. Thus, Kayashima, like Fan, fails to teach the claimed registration unit/step, and also fails to teach the claimed control step which depends on the registration unit/step.

Yonenaga merely discloses a computer which is equipped with a printer, and IANA Well Known Port Numbers merely discloses kinds of Well Known Ports. However, neither Yonenaga or IANA Well Known Port Numbers teach the registration unit/step or the control step of the claimed invention.

Thus, any permissible combination of Fan, Kayashima, Yonenaga, and IANA would not have resulted in the claimed features of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and deficiencies of the applied art, amended independent Claims 8, 18 and 22, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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